



MEDIA ADVISORY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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CITY RESPONSE TO NOTICE OF BELL SOUTH LAWSUIT

Today the City of Greensboro received notice of a lawsuit filed by BellSouth. City Manager Mitch Johnson stated that the lawsuit came as a surprise to him since he has not been contacted in the past year by BellSouth representatives regarding the concerns expressed in the suit.

Over the past 2 ½ years, the City's Legal Department has maintained ongoing discussions with BellSouth regarding their performance under the City's franchise agreement. While the legal department kept the City Manager informed regarding the discussions, BellSouth had not indicated they planned to file a lawsuit.

The City Manager confirmed his belief that the City has acted appropriately regarding the management of streets, street right-of-ways, and utility franchise agreements. City projects, including the widening of streets and thoroughfares, often require the relocation of utilities. Pursuant to the City of Greensboro's franchise agreement, utility companies are required to move their services at no cost to the City so that needed improvements can be made without further charges to the abutting landowners/citizens.

The City is working to prepare an appropriate response to the lawsuit.

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